

Cities **for** Children.

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The YP Foundation

The YP Foundation (TYPF) was founded in 2002 as a youth led and run organization. TYPF promotes, protects and advances young people's human rights by building feminist leadership, and strengthening youth led initiatives and movements. It empowers young people to access critical information about their health, education and rights, enables them to analyse and use this information for their development, and become successful leaders and advocates.

Currently, our programs work with young people from marginalized and vulnerable communities in urban and rural areas in Delhi, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan.

Since inception, TYPF has worked directly with 6,500 young people to set up over 300 projects in India over the last 12 years, reaching out to 450,000 adolescents and young people across the country.

Blending Spectrum, one of TYPF's flagship programs works with urban slum children and adolescents between the ages of 5-17 living in low-resource settings. The programme builds rights based and youth-led enabling environments to develop children's leadership and life skills to challenge gender inequality, reduce levels of violence and discrimination, and develop practices that promote personal hygiene in their local communities through a bi-weekly peer education programme.

The programme has been working in the Sunder Nagar Nursery area of the Nizamuddin Basti since 2006. In its current phase, the programme is focused on strengthening the leadership of the community leaders who have been associated with the programme, to build relevant leadership skill sets to identify and address relevant issues in their community and take leadership of the programme in the future.

Urbanization and the rights of young people to their cities.

Our world today is rapidly urbanizing, with more and more people living in cities than ever before. This is especially true of cities in Asia, Africa and Latin America. This large migration to the cities is considered a better move because rural poverty is still seen as more acute than urban poverty. But this is an oversimplification of what is truly a “silent emergency” in the lives of many.

The urban poor live in dreadful conditions, with substandard housing and no basic amenities like clean drinking water, toilets and a chance to get proper education and a dignified livelihood. Hundreds of millions of children live in appalling conditions, have too little to eat and little access to health care if they fall ill or are injured. Over a million children each year are forced into prostitution, and many more work in hazardous conditions. A vast number of children are homeless and survive on streets through begging, a poignant reminder of the failure of their families and societies.

The CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD is the most widely accepted international treaty in the world. It defines how children should be treated

in various areas of their lives. Children around the world are similar they want safe homes and communities to live in, have the support of their families and resources for education, leisure and opportunities for dignified livelihoods when they grow up. The CRC too stresses the importance to children and adolescents for safe and supportive neighbourhoods. Too many communities fail to offer a level of security and support, with unfit and over crowded habitation and constant threat of eviction cities become unwelcoming and threatening spaces.

The breadth of the convention’s provisions confers considerable responsibility on local governments. It is therefore important that local advocacy be taken up to change the situation for the youngest members of our communities. The children of today cannot wait for some distant prosperity. Their needs must be fulfilled today. The growing economic prosperity of countries must translate into higher social spending especially with an eye to secure the importance of children and adolescents

50% of Delhi’s 16.3 million people live in urban slums. There is growing recognition that local government bodies are ill equipped to handle the scale of the crisis. TYPF recognizes and connects this global challenge to its work in SNN. In the past 8 years TYPF has built the leadership skills of at risk children so that they can navigate the cityscape with less harm. The safety audit exercise is directly working to strengthen CRC’s local government connection and makes it more accountable to the urban poor children.



Introduction

Cities for Children: Young Peoples' Voices on Life and Safety in Urban Slums is a safety audit report compiled by the Community Youth Leaders of Sunder Nagar Nursery (SNN). The report details the specific intervention on safety and public spaces taken up by the Blending Spectrum programme. The aim of the program is to build leadership and initiate youth led action on relevant issues of safety in urban slum communities.

Through long term engagement with young people in the community the need for safety, especially for girls has emerged as a critical need. TYPF has therefore endeavored to build youth leadership through systemic and continuous work on this issue. This includes building a strong gender perspective among the community youth as well as specific goal oriented action projects like the safety audits.

The safety audit exercise has been designed to further the leadership skills of the community youth leaders. The process from data collection, to analysis, and community sharing and advocacy has been led by the youth from SNN with support from TYPF team. The vision behind this undertaking is to build leadership skills for these high-risk youth that are relevant to their realities. The projected longitudinal impact of this knowledge and skill building exercise is to have citizens who are aware of the changing realities of

urbanisation and are equipped to handle issues like rights to safe public spaces and mobility.

TYPF partnered with SafetiPin and Jagori to conduct the safety audits in Sunder Nagar Nursery. SafetiPin is a mobile application that crowd sources safety data from various cities around the world and enables organisations and communities to use it for advocacy. Jagori is India's leading feminist organisation that has been doing pioneering work to address violence against women for the past 30 years. For the last few years Jagori has been running the Safe Delhi Campaign for making public spaces safer for women. With these two strong institutional partners Blending Spectrum undertook the work on the project.

The report contains analysis of safety data that was collected by the community leaders and is followed by recommendations for change. It outlines the processes that were undertaken for data collection, analysis, community sharing of findings and advocacy with various government bodies. The aim of the programme is to take the safety audit methodology to new areas, especially resource poor communities and connect them to the global movement on safety in urban spaces. TYPF has also through this process has made a contribution towards the ongoing data collection in Delhi by SafetiPin and its partner organisations.

Conducting Safety Audits in Sunder Nagar Nursery

Experiences and Outcomes

“The Women’s Safety Audit (WSA) is a participatory tool for collecting and assessing information about perceptions of urban safety in public spaces. It is a powerful tool for change, which can bring together an entire community to work to improve their quality of life. WSAs help create a safer and more comfortable environment for women, and other vulnerable groups of people – for everyone” (METRAC, 1998).

This global understanding of safety audits characterizes the intervention taken up at SNN. A brief outline of the process of the safety audits and advocacy is detailed further, followed by the safety audit report and recommendations.

Building Perspectives

The programme began by organizing training on gender, mobility and urbanisation for the Community Youth Leaders. This strengthened their existing knowledge on gender and added a new dimension of urbanisation to it. The training also built understanding of Women’s Safety Audits and why it was started and what impact it has had globally

(M)Apping safety in the community

The SafetiPin team conducted a workshop on how to use the mobile application. The youth leaders then did a community mapping exercise to mark out the areas they would like to audit. Apart from the community itself areas like the Humayun’s Tomb, The road outside DPS Mathura Road, The Oberoi Flyover, and a homeless shelter across the Nizamuddin Dargah were picked up for conducting the audits. Once the audits began the community youth leaders also added a bridge connecting Nizamuddin West to Pant Nagar near their school as another important site of the audit.

Data collection

Over a period of one month the youth leaders audited the community of Sunder Nagar Nursery and its adjoining areas. The audits were conducted by walking through the physical space of these sites and assessing the lacunae that exist in the services and physical infrastructure. The premise behind this was that the people who live in the community are the best judge of the gaps and safety issues. The act of systematic data collection was also a big learning for the young people of SNN who had never been exposed to such a technique; the experience was very valuable for them.



“Using Safety Pin was a new and wonderful experience for me I now know that I can use the app to find out which areas in Delhi are safe and which are unsafe.” Salman, Community Youth Leader, Age 15

Data Analysis

After completing the safety audits, the Safetipin team held a workshop with the Community Youth Leaders on how to analyse the data that they had collected. The analytics engine and its data collection tool were explained and the youth leaders learnt to view the data on Google maps, identify and understand the meaning of the red, amber and green pins to learn the importance of each of the nine parameters that constitute one safety audit pin. The purpose of this exercise was to build a sound understanding for the youth leaders on the relevance of large-scale data collection and to prepare them to present the report that would be created from their audits to the various stakeholders.



Engaging Community Members

To take the report to various stakeholders a community event was held inside SNN on the 14th of November 2015. The event was an OSAM or Open Safety Audit Mapping event, which invites the various stakeholders to come and see the data that has been collected. Members from the larger community shared their experiences, ideas and suggestions on the issue of safety. Large maps showing the audit pins in the community were put up for all to see. The community members could come and mark the spots they felt were unsafe.

For the OSAM event the community youth leaders mobilized the community by doing door-to-door mobilization. They also put up posters with details of the meeting all around the community. The mobilization drive provided a platform for the youth to speak to members of their community and put across their concerns on the issue of safety. This has increased the visibility of the young people themselves as agents of change.

The Blending Spectrum team assisted the youth leaders to send out invites to the various government body stakeholders. The SHO of the Nizamuddin Police Station, The Member of the Legislative Assembly and the Municipal Corporation of Delhi's elected ward councilor were invited for the OSAM event.



Youth Led Advocacy

The OSAM event was attended by the Area In Charge Sub Inspector Mr. Ishwar Singh, the representatives of the MLA from the ruling Aam Aadmi Party Mr. Iqrimuddin, and Mr. Mohammad Ummair, women from the homeless shelter and about 200 people from SNN. The Community Youth Leaders shared their findings on the condition of safety in the community and then facilitated the questions and grievances of the community members to the police and the MLA office. The event was successful in bringing out the issues in the community.

Almost all the people present insisted on the construction of electricity poles in parts of the community that are very dark, due to which they are unsafe for women and others. The conditions of the walk paths were also reported with potholes and uncollected waste and sewage water. A woman recalled how she lost her daughter to Dengue sometime back and appealed to municipal authorities to clean up the huge heaps of garbage accumulated

in proximity to the households. The residents of the homeless shelter also urged for the same. Apart from this people requested for more taps. The community also reported incidents of violence and police inaction in these situations. The reconstruction of the police booth inside the community was a strong demand, especially from the women of the community who said that they felt unsafe walking around at night due to lack of policing.

The women who came from the homeless shelter shared their experiences of living in a very poorly serviced community that has open criminal activities like drug use and gambling that compromises everyone's safety. The lack of intervention by the police and MLA and MCD was repeatedly stated. Two young community leaders requested deployment of policemen near their school area in Pantnagar to keep a check on the increasing instances of girls being teased by boys.



The Police officer and members of the MLA office listened to everyone's complaints and made a note of them. The Police officer distributed his number and assured the community that they can reach out to him during any emergency. He was impressed that the youth leaders had used a mobile app to collect the data and he informed everyone about Himmat, Delhi Police's emergency app and requested the women to use it for their safety. Mohd. Umair, from the AAP MLA Praveen Kumar's office, informed the residents of SNN of issuing a permit for one of their earlier applications to construct a pipeline and setting up of toilets in the area and assured them that all their other concerns will be also be taken care of. However, it will take six-seven months to install lights in all the required places due to lack of adequate funds with the government. He too encouraged the people from the homeless shelter and SNN to come directly to his office in need of any help.

"Whenever, we have tried to lodge an FIR or asked for help from the police, they either do not let us enter the police station and lash out at us with insensitive remarks or demand countless written formalities to be completed which is extremely difficult for an illiterate like me. The process remains stuck and eventually, no action is taken by the concerned authorities."
– A woman resident of the homeless shelter.

"A year ago, a young girl from a different locality was found lying in the bushes in an unconscious state.. As the incident occurred close to the Central Government elections, it remained under limelight for some time and received much attention from the police and political parties following which a police booth was set up in the area. However, the incident was soon forgotten by most and the booth was also removed after a few months." – A woman SNN resident

Impact

The impact of this intensive exercise has been building leadership of community youth on the issue of safety in public spaces. The Community Youth Leaders developed relevant skills in data collection, analysis and reporting, community mobilization and reaching out to government body stakeholders like the police and elected members of the Delhi Government. TYPF team put thought in minute details such as guiding the community leaders to place posters on strategic locations inside the community to have maximize their outreach.

“It was my first experience in interacting with the Police. After this experience I will never hesitate to speak to a police officer in case of an emergency”
– Kareena, Community Youth Leader, age 13.

The residents of SNN appreciated that an event highlighting safety issues was hosted in the community. The mother of a community youth leader shared “ I am very happy that Salman is getting to learn such good things and it is also so wonderful for our community to have processes like these.” As the report was being compiled action from the report has already been taken. The open gutters inside SNN had been fixed and a police patrol had been set up near the school in Pant Nagar. These positive outcomes of advocacy have made the community youth leaders enthusiastic to take up advocacy work on other points in their report. The program will proceed to facilitate this work.

TYPF has begun the work of building a long-term relationship with government bodies to connect them to SNN. This endeavour to demand accountability in services and resource allocation will be led by the youth from the community.

TYPF is committed to building relevant skills and experiences for young people here so that they can successfully navigate the multiple layers of bureau-

cratic functioning of government bodies and become enabled to assert their rights.

The longitudinal impact of this intervention will be to activate and empower a cohort of young people who are aware of the issues of urbanisation and able to link their existing communities to local government stakeholders.

“I am happy that we have been able to collect data that all the residents of Delhi can see and benefit by” – Salman, Community Youth Leader, Age 15.



“Now there is a police constable present when we come and leave from school. The men who used to harass us are gone! We shared with our other friends at school that this was due to the safety audits we conducted they were all very impressed.” – Shahid, Age 15



The Safety Audit Report

The report that follows is an attempt by the children of Sunder Nagar Nursery to explore how they see their surroundings and offer recommendations to improve the safety standards of their community. The analysis of the data has been done using the SafetiPin analytics engine.



Map 1: Safety audit pins on a map of the Sunder Nagar Nursery Area

Map 1 above shows the safety audit pins collected. A total of 60 pins were created during the audits. 40

safety audit pins and 20 hazard pins.

Each pin analyzed the following 9 parameters –

Light – How is the light in the area, dark, poorly lit, enough light or brightly lit.

Openness – Is the area open enough for clear line of sight in all directions or are there blind corners.

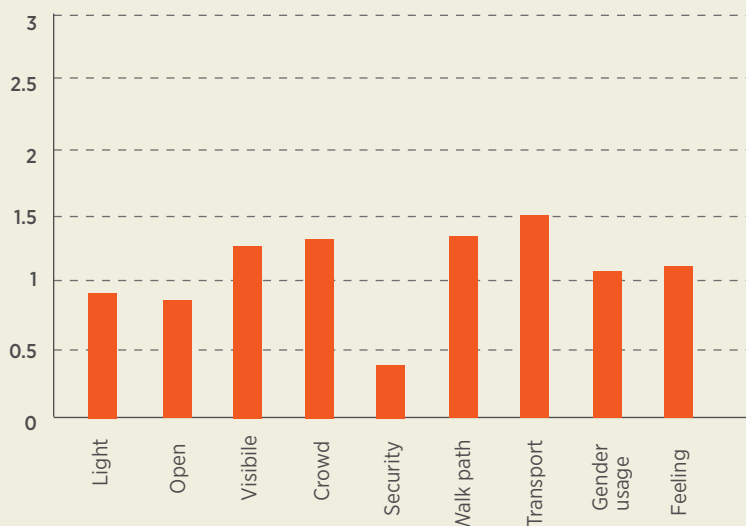
Visibility – Are there buildings, shops, stalls, and vendors around that overlook at the point where the safety audit is done.

Crowd – Are there people in sight.

Security – Is there visible private security or police in the surrounding area.

Walk Path – Is walk path available and in good condition.

Average Audit Parameters of Sunder Nagar Nursery



Graph 1 - shows the average scores of these 9 audit parameters.

Public Transport – How easy or difficult is it to get public transport from the area of the audits.

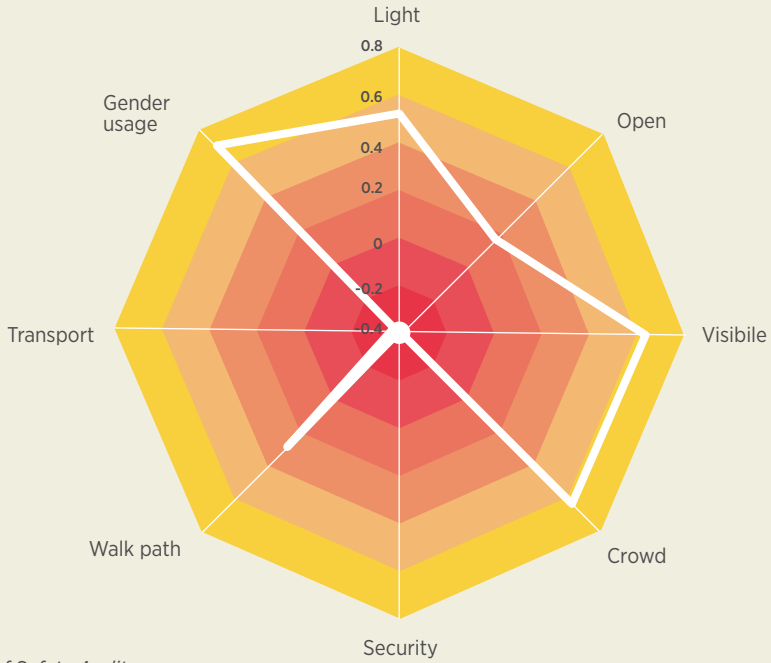
Gender Usage - Are there enough women and children in the crowd to balance the gender diversity.

Feeling – How the auditors felt during the audit.

The average audit parameters clearly show an overall low score on all the parameters. Particularly bad are visible security, openness and low lighting. The scores are described in detail in the table 1 below.

Table 1: Average Audit Parameters of Sunder Nagar Nursery Explained.

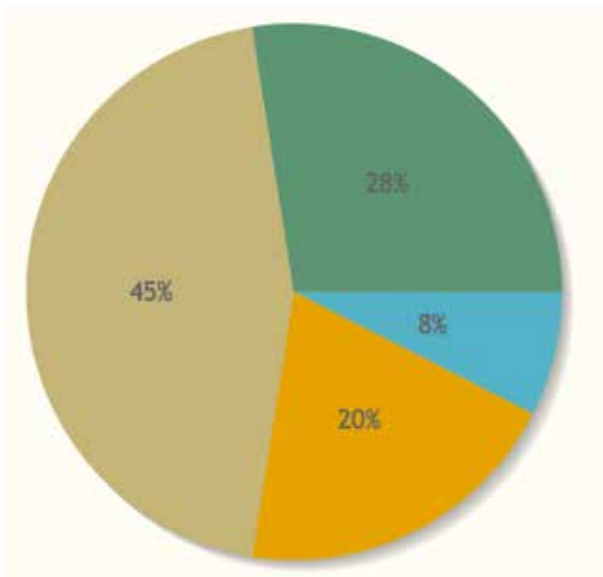
Parameter	Score	Description
Light	0.9 - Poor	The light in the community is mostly from inside the homes and few shops in the community. All entry and exit points to the community are very dark.
Openness	0.8 - Poor	The openness in the community is very low, this is mostly due to the haphazard construction of the community due to which there are many narrow lanes.
Visibility	1.2 - Below Average	The visibility on the entry and exit points of the community is particularly low with no eyes on the street and natural surveillance restricted due to overgrown shrubbery.
Crowd	1.3 - Below Average	The public spaces in the community are not crowded with most people choosing to stay indoors.
Security	0.3 - Very Poor	The auditors found no visible security inside the community.
Walk Path	1.3 - Below Average	The walk path in the community is below average with many pot-holes and obstruction due to garbage piles.
Transport	1.5 - Average	There are autos, hand pulled rickshaws and buses available at a short walking distance from the community.
Gender Usage	1 - Below Average	There is a lack of mixed crowd gender crowd in the community.
Feeling	1.1 - Below Average	The auditors found the feeling of safety to be low in the community.



Graph 2: Correlation of Safety Audit Parameters with Feeling of Safety

As shown in graph 2 we found that the presence of mixed gender crowds in public spaces in and around the community have the highest impact on the feeling of safety. This is followed by visibility, crowd, and lighting. All these four factors are linked to people

finding public spaces safer. Therefore it is important to not just focus on infrastructure but also designing and planning streets for wider usage with a particular focus on making them accessible for women in the community.



- Before 5pm
- 5pm-6pm
- 6pm-7pm
- 7pm-8pm
- 8pm-9pm
- After 9pm

Audits were conducted between 6 pm to 7 pm when it got dark and the light could be assessed. Only 8 % of the audits were conducted before 5 pm.

Graph 3: Time of Audit Chart



group of auditors inspected a deserted looking bridge that runs underneath the Barapullah elevated corridor. This bridge connects Pant Nagar to Nizamuddin West. Above is a map of the bridge with the audit pins.

The Average Audit parameters were all found to be low. The auditors found no security in the area and no means of public transport. Gender usage of the area was very low. The female auditors were also harassed by a group of men as they were conducting the audit.

Additionally the community youth leaders decided to audit a particularly risky route on the way to a school that most children in the community attend. The

Graph 4 shows the average audit parameters of the area and table 2 describes the scores of each parameter in detail.

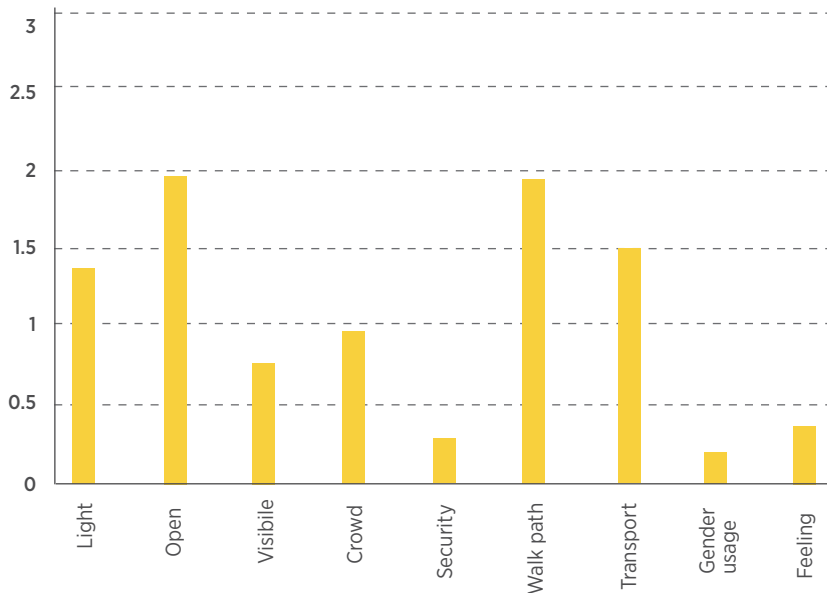


Table 2: Average Audit Parameters of Pant Nagar Bridge explained

<i>Parameter</i>	<i>Score</i>	<i>Description</i>
Light	0.9 - Poor	The lighting in the area was average. This can be improved by adding more streetlights on the bridge.
Openness	0.8 - Poor	The area is fairly open, no action required.
Visibility	1.2 - Below Average	The bridge has very poor visibility as it is covered on both sides by high walls. The bridge is over one of the largest open drains in Delhi.
Crowd	1.3 - Below Average	The area was almost deserted except a few men standing on the bridge.
Security	0.3 - Very Poor	The auditors found no visible security in and around the bridge.
Walk Path	1.3 - Below Average	The walk path was in good condition.
Tranport	1.5 - Average	There were no options for public transport in and around the bridge.
Gender Usage	1 - Below Average	The gender usage of the area was found to be very poor. The auditors found no other women on the bridge.
Feeling	1.1 - Below Average	The feeling of safety is very low in the area.

Table 2: Average Audit Parameters of Pant Nagar Bridge explained

Recommendations

The community Youth Leaders held group discussions to formulate recommendations for Sunder Nagar Nursery and its adjoining areas including the school bridge that they audited. These recommendations have been added to during the OSAM community event -

Recommendations for Sunder Nagar Nursery -

Fixing the lighting – Improving overall lighting in the community, especially at all entry and exit points of the community. The entry from the round about has no streetlights; the little light that comes from the Masjid is blocked by overgrown shrubbery. We recommend that streetlight poles be added on this road and the trees pruned regularly so that light is not blocked. The entrance from the DPS Mathura Road side is very dark even though it is a major bi-lane. The streetlights on the flyover need to be fixed and additional sources of light added to this stretch of road. Additionally the tall grass that grows on the way to the community needs to be pruned. The homeless shelter also needs lighting, it currently has none and it is very difficult to walk there especially after dark.

Renovating the walk path – The walk path is uniformly below average in the community. There are potholes that make it difficult to walk. In the narrow by lanes of the community the road is unpaved and has a lot of sewage water and garbage strewn around. We recommend that garbage from the community be removed and then systematically picked up for

disposal. Apart from being a safety hazard this is also a major health hazard for the community. Additionally the homeless shelter has very poor walk path and waste is dumped near the homes. This needs to be fixed.

Crowd - The auditors found that the community members do not venture outdoors after dark. The community's common spaces are usually deserted. We recommend that outdoor furniture like benches should be added in public spots to encourage people to come outside. We also recommend that open spaces outside the Madina Masjid should be turned into a designated playground for children. This will encourage people to come and utilize public spaces.

Supporting increased gender usage of public spaces– The gender usage of public spaces in the community is very low. We recommend mixed use of common areas be encouraged so that women to come out. This can be done by having vendors to set up their stalls in a spread out manner so that as all areas inside the community can be covered.

Security – The police patrolling in the area needs to be increased. We recommend that the Nizamuddin Police Station start Delhi Police's youth intervention programmes in the community so that the connection to the station is strengthened. There is a demand in the community to restart the police booth that was shut down last year. Also the women from the homeless shelter have requested for more police action to stop the gambling and drug use.

Openness – The trees on the outer edges of the community need to be pruned to increase openness. Due to haphazard construction there are many narrow by lanes, though these can't be fixed but adding street

lights and removing garbage from the streets can increase the level of comfort for the pedestrians here.

Visibility – The visibility can be increased by having more eyes on the street by increasing natural surveillance through street vendors, removal of high walls, pruning overgrown shrubbery, and adding benches and parks to the design of the community. Certain areas that are particularly dark and deserted can be transformed by holding community meetings, and requesting vendors to stand here

More taps – The women at SNN requested for more taps as it was very difficult to get enough water with the one tap being shared amongst so many families.

Recommendations for Pant Nagar Bridge and School –

Increased Security – We strongly recommend that police constables be posted on the bridge especially during the school hours. This will provide some much needed security for the students. The female youth leaders reported that many girls are afraid to cross the bridge alone due to the presence of men who sexually harass them. This has led to a drop in attendance of the female students and is a cause for worry.

Encouraging school authorities to accompany smaller children as they cross the bridge. Additionally older students can be requested to take charge of the younger students and leave in groups from the school so that they are not alone.

Hand pulled rickshaw drivers can be requested to stand at the end of the bridge to take passengers, especially during school hours.

Street vendors can be encouraged to stand on the bridge, especially during afternoon and evening time when students leave from school.

Impact and way forward

The process of mapping safe and unsafe places in and around Sunder Nagar Nursery slum community by the youth leaders of the Blending Spectrum program has shown the gaps that exist in the infrastructure of New Delhi. The findings and recommendations of this report are from the point of view of adolescents and young adults aged 12 to 17 years. This lens is what is most often missing from urban design of our cities. The study is of particular importance as it brings into focus the many safety lacunae that exist in urban slums in India. The report and its strong follow up have showed positive impact within a short span of time. The leadership program for the Community Youth Leaders will continue to build on the actionable points of the report and continue direct advocacy with the government bodies and work for larger community involvement. This will strengthen the leadership abilities of the young people who live here, so that they can speak with authority on the issue of demanding safer communities for themselves and others.



The YP Foundation N 204, Greater Kailash, Part 1,
New Delhi - 110048. India

T.: +91.11.46792241

E.: theypfoundation@gmail.com

Facebook: [theypfoundation](https://www.facebook.com/theypfoundation)

Twitter: [theypfoundation](https://twitter.com/theypfoundation)

Website: www.theypfoundation.org

